219055

LIMOUSINE COMPANIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA PETITION THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO CEASE AND DESIST THE ISSUANCE OF DUAL AUTHORITY

To Public Service Commission,

Limousine companies of Myrtle Beach have witnessed the **abuse of dual authority** granted to several taxi companies. These abuses are detrimental to both the limousine and taxi industries in the area and negatively affect members of the public who rely upon these transportation services. Some examples of such abuses include:

- Two taxi companies have been observed operating vans with limousine tags to provide pick-up and drop off transportation services. This pick-up and drop off transportation is taxi service, not limousine service. In addition, the drivers providing this service typically wear shorts and casual shirts with taxi company logos. This taxi company attire degrades the image of limousine service providers. The vans with limousine tags reportedly charge a fee each way to transport as many as 14 passengers between North Myrtle Beach locations and Broadway at the Beach. Passengers are to call 30 minutes out for a van to pick them up for the return trip on an available van, not necessarily the same van that those passengers rode on the first leg of the trip. This shuttling passengers back and forth is taxi service, not limousine service.
- An employee of one limousine company was observed on July 31, 2009 soliciting
 business on the limousine side of Broadway at the Beach by approaching
 passengers for van transportation in a small van with limousine tags. The vehicle
 was observed making several trips within a 90-minute period, including one
 group of eight that departed in that six-passenger van.

Abuses such as these indicate that rather than enhance the transportation options available to the public and provide consistent operating rules, dual authority has created confusion, inconvenience, and possible safety concerns for the public by allowing the established and distinct operating rules that apply to taxi service providers and those that apply to limousine service providers to be disregarded. This is detrimental to the area's providers of limousine and taxi service as well as to the public.

We are asking the commission to conduct an investigation and hearing regarding this matter and we further request the Office of Regulatory Staff to stop issuing dual authority and rescind those that have been issued.

The limousine companies of the Myrtle Beach South Carolina area presenting this petition to the Office of Regulatory Staff are listed on the attached page(s).

Dept: S.A. 10RS

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LIMOUSINE COMPANIES OF MYRTLE BEACH SOUTH CAROLINA PETITION

TO STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF TO CEASE AND DESIST THE ISSUANCE OF DUAL AUTHORITY

AND Public Service Commission

The following limousine companies of the Myrtle Beach South Carolina area presenting this petition to the Office of Regulatory Staff. Company: / Telephone: 83 DOUE CAROLINA LIMOUSINE Ву: Company: Telephone: Company: 1 Telephone: <u>293</u> Company: Premiere Limo -4000 Telephone: Umo Scene Company: Telephone: Company: Telephone: (どりょう Company: __(Telephone: Company: Telephone: Company: Colly Telephone: _ #43 - 386 By: Company: _ Telephone: _ By: Company: Telephone: _ By: Company: Telephone: _ By: _ Company: Telephone: __

LIMOUSINE COMPANIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA PETITION THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO CEASE AND DESIST THE ISSUANCE OF DUAL AUTHORITY

CC:

Senator Raymond E. Cleary III 501 Gressette Building Columbia, SC 29201

Senator J. Yancey McGill 508 Gressette Building Columbia, SC 29201

Senator Luke A. Rankin 508 Gressette Building Columbia, SC 29201

Senator Dick Elliott 601 Gressette Building Columbia, SC 29201